
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

5/5/09

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall as scheduled with Tom Alonzo, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, David Matthews and Kerry Speidel, CAFO present, Paula Bertram absent. Meeting opened at 7:01 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dave attended the Innaguarual Salon for Civic Engagement last week, which Fitchburg State College is sponsoring as a way to get the students involved with the local communities. Discussed ideas as to how we can all work together, noted interns are available from the college to work with the community and will pass this information on to the CAFO.
- Also, expressed appreciation to all involved in town meeting, the residents for their turnout, the CAFO and staff and departments. Chair also noted that the transparency of town meeting and that all information was kept clear and concise, also expressed appreciation to CAFO and staff.
- Steve comment regarding State Representative Jen Benson's committee, questioned the 6.25% increase in our sales tax and since we've not really heard anything on the tax increase such as this, surprised that she would be voting in favor, particularly that during her campaign she stressed a no tax increases.
Per Chair, it was discussed at our last advisory meeting but as the board didn't meet last week, he didn't have opportunity to inform the board. It was clear that the reason was to increase local aid, the House budget local aid that was passed increases levels in local aid in specific areas. Chair will extend invitation to Representative Benson to have her here in person to explain.
- Ernie Sund, Adjutant extended the following invitation to the board: "It is with great pleasure that we invite you and all other Town of Lunenburg Officials to attend our Memorial Day Services this year. In addition we would be very grateful if you would consider being a guest speaker for our services. If you do accept this invitation, it is the tradition of the American Legion that any speeches be in the nature of a tribute to, or eulogy of the dead in all our wars. Our services generally last about one half hour. With refreshments served afterwards.
We plan to conduct our services on Sunday May 25, 2009 at 11:45 AM. Our services will be held in the Lunenburg Veterans Memorial Park, across from the American Legion Post 283.
If you would be so kind to respond to me directly at home tel. 978-534-6999 or Business 978-534-0530, we will be developing our program and keep you abreast of the schedule." Chair will check his schedule, need to check with Ernie as to the exact date as Monday is the 25th.

Chair forwarded the CAFO Evaluation forms and goals; requested the board forward back to him by May 15th in order to draft the final evaluation.

APPOINTMENTS

1. 7:30 PM – Public Hearing / Pole Location – Sunnyhill Road – Open Public Hearing as follows: You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at the Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room, Lunenburg Town Hall 2nd floor conference room at 7:30 PM on the 5th day of May 2009 upon petition of Verizon New England Inc., and Fitchburg Gas and Electric Company, d/b/a Unitil for permission to place three (3) new jointly owned poles on the easterly side of Sunnyhill Road. Beginning at a point approximately 845 feet +/- and placing new pole number T16; thence running northerly 150 feet +/- and placing new pole number T17; thence running northerly 213 feet +/- and placing new pole number T1 ½ in the ways or parts of ways designated in said petition, along which designated route of line you are an owner of real estate, as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation.

Verizon Representative, Scott Burns came before the board and informed members that they have revised the plan and will be adding an additional pole. Explained prior submittal and now they will be going about another 60' feet up to the driveway to the water tower and will not be cutting across another property owners drive, the T 1 ½ is a new pole. Pole #16 & #17 are brand new poles.

Tom Welch, 355 Sunnyhill Rd. questioned pole placement relative to his property.

Steve motioned to approve, Tom M. seconded, voted unanimously.

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Minutes – Board of Selectmen for 3/24/09, 4/7/09, 4/21/09 and Executive Session for 2/10/09 reviewed and signed.

Warrants – #59 09, 4/29/09 - \$325,149.92 and #60 09, 5/5/09 - \$183,615.47 reviewed and signed.

Contracts - None

Action File Issues – Chair, Mass Ofc on Disability together with the Lancaster Commission on Disability are hosting a seminar on Emergency Preparedness for individuals with disabilities, will announce date and time at next weeks meeting.

2. CAFO Updates

- Debris removal bids opened last week, received four bids. In process of reviewing to ensure that all documents are in order and look at awarding this week with an anticipated date to commence work for Monday, May 18th start date in order to get

information out to newspapers and the media. Have had news release out for some time, just want to be sure we give everyone enough time as we'll be going out only once to each area. Property owners are to bring debris to right of way, not to impede on roadway or sidewalks. Chair discussed asking for voluntary fee of \$50 to help defray the costs to those property owners that put debris out there and ask the board to at least consider this. Steve noted that if this is voluntary, all the estimation was done before this cleanup has been incurred and a large amount has already been removed by the residents and brought to the landfill. If people want to contribute, they can. Hope that the people picking up show some consideration as there are some piles that are located farther onto private property. Per CAFO we don't have anybody that will be that particular. Tom M., doesn't see any harm in asking for the \$50 donation and has noticed that many residents have picked up their debris and noted that some houses have a pile behind the pile and want to make sure that these are also picked up. CAFO to prepare something for next week explaining how people can donate.

- Tennessee Gas Pipeline project may be commencing on May 17th and expect to have completed inside of twelve weeks. The have worked diligently with the Fire Department, residents can speak with the Chief if they have any questions.
- Received notification of seminar that Mass Housing is hosting on Thursday, May 14, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Hogan Campus Center at the College of the Holy Cross and will include a discussion of successful local housing efforts that have used existing buildings for affordable housing and revitalizing neighborhoods.
- Emergency Management Director, School Superintendent, Board of Health Agent and CAFO have met several times on the H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus and have information on the website and has gone out through the school system.
- In response to number of street light outages, the office has put together a form that people can fill out and send in if the residents want to report street light outages, will be posted on the website tomorrow.
- CAFO questioned whether the board wanted someone from the Department of Revenue to come and discuss the Financial Management Review that they conducted last fall. Board concurred that they would like to have this scheduled.
- GASB 45 evaluation, contracted out to AON Consulting, as we are required to have done and in place by December 31, 2009 to provide cost analysis on the non pension retirement benefits to employees and retirees. Have met with the actuarial and department heads and questioned if the board would like a presentation, noted there is a cost and would like to set this up as a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee. Board concurred that this would be worthwhile particularly as there is a cost involved in the future.
- Municipal Electric Aggregation information; questioned whether the Board wanted the Utilities Task Force to go over and report or if the CAFO should go over. An opportunity for the town to come together to purchase electricity, not sure as to how we bring the people together, may be a town meeting vote. Chair would like to have distributed to the committee and would like to have in electronic form. Once the board reviews, may be better to ascertain where the task would lie. CAFO will provide a brief summary and forward electronically.

Dave questioned resolution on some items:

1. Paving plan, questioned when board will see it and per CAFO there is a presentation that has been prepared. He also noted: the town report, listed town approved roadways as 82.9 miles and wants to be sure that the roads that have been added over the years have been forwarded to the state.
2. Town Hall renovation, when are we going to begin and per CAFO will hopefully have identified who will go upstairs by the end of this month.
3. Response review with Emergency Management Director; would like to schedule this meeting as we've learned a lot throughout the process.
4. Chapter land located next to DPW, and per CAFO based upon the lack of interest from the Conservation Commission and DPW we didn't respond to the Right of First Refusal. Noted the renovation of DPW office space and where does this stand, CAFO noted that this would be difficult at this time as there is no funding. However, Dave noted that if there are safety concerns, such as air quality, we need to be ready to address these issues and what makes the most sense.
5. Chair questioned the Lake Shirley Dam that is due for inspection; CAFO informed the board that we have signed an inspection contract, not sure as to the inspection commencement date.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Updates

- Chair noted State Representative Advisory Committee did meet and discussed the state budget. As everything is changing so rapidly much of what was discussed has already been changed. Next meeting will be in June. Office in Town Hall is staffed on Mondays and Fridays when the town hall offices are open.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – REAPPOINTMENTS - RESIGNATIONS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Contract Negotiations -

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 7:59 P.M. for the purposes of entering into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations, not to return to Regular Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Asst.,
Board of Selectmen